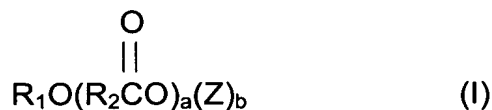


What is claimed is:

1. A lanolin-free lanolin substitute composition comprising the following components:
 - A) from about 5 to about 95% by weight of at least one plant sterol fatty acid ester;
 - B) from about 1 to about 20% by weight of at least one polyglyceryl di-polyhydroxy fatty acid ester;
 - C) from about 1 to about 20% by weight of at least one polyglyceryl di-fatty acid ester;
 - D) from about 0.25 to about 10% by weight of at least one glyceryl fatty acid ester; and
 - E) optionally, from about 1 to 80% by weight of an additive containing a mixture of (i) a vegetable oil, (ii) a hydrogenated vegetable oil, and (iii) a non-petroleum derived wax.
2. The composition of claim 1 wherein component A) is present in from about 15 to about 60% by weight, components B) and C) are present in from about 5 to about 15% by weight, component D) is present in from about 1 to about 5% by weight, and component E) is present in an amount of from about 35 to 65% by weight, all weights being based on the weight of the composition.
3. The composition of claim 1 wherein component A) is soya sterol fatty acid ester, component B) is polyglyceryl-2 di-polyhydroxystearate, component C) is polyglyceryl-3 diisostearate, and component D) is glyceryl oleate.
4. The composition of claim 2 wherein component A) is soya sterol fatty acid ester, component B) is polyglyceryl-2 di-polyhydroxystearate, component C) is polyglyceryl-3 diisostearate, and component D) is glyceryl oleate.
5. A lanolin-free lanolin substitute composition of claim 1 comprising the following components:
 - A) about 40% by weight of soya sterol C₁₈ saturated fatty acid ester;

- B) about 10% by weight of polyglyceryl-2 polyhydroxystearate;
 - C) about 10% by weight of polyglyceryl-3 diisostearate;
 - D) about 2.5% by weight of glyceryl oleate; and
 - E) about 37.5% of the additive.
6. The composition of claim 1 wherein the composition also contains at least one of the following components:
- F) microcrystalline wax;
 - G) a polyethyleneglycol plant sterol; and
 - H) petrolatum/mineral oil.
7. The composition of claim 6 wherein component F) is present in from 1 to about 20% by weight; component G) is present in from 1 to about 20% by weight; and component H) is present in from 1 to 60% by weight, all weights being based on the total weight of the composition.
8. The composition of claim 6 wherein at least component F) is present and wherein component G) is polyethyleneglycol soya sterol.
9. In the formulation of a pharmaceutical, cosmetic composition, soap, detergent, or leather finishing composition in which lanolin is used as a component thereof, the improvement wherein the composition of claim 1 is used in place of lanolin.
10. In the formulation of a pharmaceutical, cosmetic, soap, detergent, or leather finishing composition in which lanolin is used as a component thereof, the improvement wherein the composition of claim 5 is used in place of lanolin.
11. In the formulation of a pharmaceutical, cosmetic, soap, detergent, or leather finishing composition in which lanolin is used as a component thereof, the improvement wherein the composition of claim 6 is used in place of lanolin.
12. In the formulation of a pharmaceutical, cosmetic composition, soap, detergent, or leather finishing composition in which lanolin is used as a component thereof, the improvement wherein the composition of claim 9 is used in place of lanolin.

13. A lanolin substitute comprising
 - I) from about 5 to about 20% by weight of a polyol ester; and
 - II) a petrolatum component selected from the group consisting of mineral petrolatum, vegetable petrolatum, and mixtures thereof; wherein the weight of polyol ester is based on the weight of petrolatum.
14. The lanolin substitute of claim 14 wherein the weight of polyol ester is from about 8 to about 12%.
15. The lanolin substitute of claim 14 wherein the polyol ester is one or more of sorbitan fatty acid esters and alkyl glycoside esters.
16. The lanolin substitute of claim 14 wherein the polyol ester is a sorbitan fatty acid ester of a C₄-C₂₂ alkyl or alkenyl fatty acid.
17. The lanolin substitute of claim 17 wherein the fatty acid contains from 6 to 18 carbon atoms.
18. The lanolin substitute of claim 14 wherein the polyol ester is an alkyl glycoside ester of formula I:



wherein R₁ is a C₁-C₂₀ alkyl or alkenyl group, R₂ is a C₃-C₂₁ alkyl or alkenyl group, a is an integer of from 1 to 4, Z is a saccharide residue containing from 5 to 6 carbon atoms, and b is a number of from 1 to about 6.